

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 3

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2003 Regular Session
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By: **Senator Gladden**

Introduced and read first time: January 30, 2003
Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments
Senate action: Adopted
Read second time: March 18, 2003

RESOLUTION NO. _____

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **The AIDS Epidemic in Africa**

3 FOR the purpose of urging the President and Congress of the United States of
4 America to encourage abstinence programs for preventing HIV/AIDS in Africa
5 and to advise pharmaceutical companies to take action to make available to
6 Africans infected with HIV and AIDS life-saving drugs at low cost.

7 WHEREAS, ~~Governor Glendening stated in his State of the State 2002~~
8 ~~address, "The anthrax attacks responsible for five deaths in the United States~~
9 ~~generated a nationwide demand that pharmaceutical companies lower the cost of~~
10 ~~antibiotics, yet there has been no global outcry or demands made on pharmaceutical~~
11 ~~companies in response to the millions of Africans who have died as a result of AIDS"~~
12 President George W. Bush in his 2003 State of the Union address stated that "on the
13 continent of Africa, nearly 30 million people have the AIDS virus, including 3 million
14 children under the age of 15. There are whole countries in Africa where more than
15 one-third of the adult population carries the infection. More than 4 million require
16 immediate drug treatment, yet across that continent, only 50,000 AIDS victims are
17 receiving the medicine they need"; and

18 WHEREAS, Africans account for 70% of the adults and 80% of the children
19 living with HIV in the world, and roughly 28.1 million adults and children with
20 HIV/AIDS live in Africa; and

21 WHEREAS, AIDS deaths in Africa totaled 2.3 million in 2001 while the global
22 total was 3 million, and the 21 countries with the highest rates of HIV prevalence are
23 located in Africa; and

24 WHEREAS, African countries have to confront the obstacles of providing
25 health care for the growing population with HIV/AIDS, preventing uninfected

1 Africans from becoming infected with HIV, and coping with the effects of millions of
2 AIDS deaths on the economy; and

3 WHEREAS, Abstinence programs have had a dramatic effect in stemming the
4 increase in the HIV/AIDS incidence in Uganda; and

5 WHEREAS, Because the African AIDS epidemic will impact the worldwide
6 economic, social, and political organizations, the rest of the world cannot afford to
7 ignore Africa's situation; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the State
9 of Maryland urges the President of the United States and the Congress of the United
10 States of America to encourage the use of abstinence programs whenever feasible and
11 to advise pharmaceutical companies to take every conceivable action to make
12 available to Africans infected with HIV and AIDS life-saving drugs at low cost to
13 stem the tide of the AIDS epidemic; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
15 Legislative Services to the President of the United States; the Maryland
16 Congressional Delegation: Senators Paul S. Sarbanes and Barbara A. Mikulski,
17 Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; Representatives Wayne T. Gilchrest,
18 C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger III, Benjamin L. Cardin, Albert R. Wynn, Steny Hamilton
19 Hoyer, Roscoe G. Bartlett, Elijah E. Cummings, and Christopher Van Hollen, Jr.,
20 House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; and to the Honorable Robert L.
21 Ehrlich, Jr., Governor of Maryland; the Honorable Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr.,
22 President of the Senate of Maryland; and the Honorable Michael E. Busch, Speaker of
23 the House of Delegates.